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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yoshiyuki ITO

Group Art Unit: 3653

Application No.: 10/809,513

Examiner: T. MORRISON

Filed: March 26, 2004

Docket No.: 119264

For: PAPER FEEDER AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS HAVING THE SAME

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the September 21, 2006 Election of Species Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects the species indicated in Fig. 1. Claims 1-15 and 20-23 read on the elected species. The election is made with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, Applicant requests rejoinder of non-elected claims 16-19 upon allowance of independent claim 1, as claim 1 is generic to claims 16-19.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 23, 2006

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